

June 27, 2003

Ms. Kamela White
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. White:

In response to your memorandum of July 2, 2002, on "Reporting Instructions for the Government Information Security Reform Act and Updated Guidance on Security Plans of Action and Milestones," I am sending you the third quarterly status report for the Government Information Security Reform Act (GISRA) Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). This third quarterly status report and the updated POA&M will also be provided to OMB staff via email, as requested in the reporting instructions.

Several noteworthy milestones were achieved this quarter, including the development of security baseline configuration guidance for our infrastructure systems. The NRC has also completed systems security accreditation for all major applications and general support systems.

Three system level corrective actions are delayed. Contingency plan testing was not conducted on one legacy system that is being replaced by a new system which is scheduled to be fielded in July. The other corrective actions which are delayed both apply to the completion of the implementation of security baseline configuration on all servers and infrastructure systems. Although the security configuration guidance has been developed, the actual implementation of that guidance has taken more time than originally planned. This is primarily due to the fact that significant analysis and testing is required to individual system servers before making systems configuration changes that may negatively impact operations. Implementation has been completed on 65% of NRC servers and infrastructure systems; completion of this process is scheduled for September 30, 2003

You requested the following status information:

	Program Level	System Level
1. Total weaknesses identified in original POA&M	28	15
2. Weaknesses corrected on time	16	13
3. Ongoing weakness corrective actions on track	11	0
4. Weaknesses with corrective actions delayed	1	2
5. Newly discovered weaknesses	0	0

We have completed the following additional milestones:

- Conducted security reviews of our regional offices and a sampling of resident inspector sites.
- Performed vulnerability testing of the connections for the external networks authorized to connect to the NRC network infrastructure.
- Password controls and the logon warning banner were implemented and verified on all NRC infrastructure systems
- Issued modem secure configuration guidance to ensure that any desktop modems are authorized and also properly configured.

If you have any questions about this report or need more details, please contact Mr. Daniel Galik at 301-415-6595 or Email DXG3@NRC.GOV.

Sincerely,

/RA/ Jacqueline E. Silber for

Ellis W. Merschoff
Chief Information Officer

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